

ZOYSIA JAPONICA

(Japanese Lawn Grass)

Tough and Wear-Resistant

Immune to most Lawn Pests

Requires Only Occasional Mowing

CROWDS OUT CRABGRASS

H E R B S T B R O T H E R S

SEEDSMEN, INC.

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ZOYSIA JAPONICA SEED

HISTORY:

Zoysia japonica, commonly known as Japanese Lawn Grass, was first introduced to the United States about 35 years ago from Japan where the climate approximates that of Florida State.

Until recent years, it was very difficult to obtain seed but we were fortunate in harvesting a crop this season. The United States Dept. of Agriculture has been testing this plant at its trial grounds at Beltsville, Md., for a number of years and considers it especially valuable for lawns, playgrounds and athletic fields.

DESCRIPTION:

Zoysia japonica is a low growing, sod forming perennial which if not mowed, will grow to a height of about 9 inches. It has a broad, somewhat course leaf similar to Red Top, but does not grow as tall.

A slow grower in its early stages, *Zoysia japonica* will form a desirable, tough and cushiony sod within two years. There are approximately 1,300,000 seeds to the pound.

ADAPTATION:

Zoysia japonica is the only variety of *Zoysia* which is hardy and will grow in the South as well as in the North. In cool climates it has a tendency to brown-up during the fall months, but being a perennial, it will revive as soon as the warm weather returns. However, this seems true only of first year plantings.

It is generally believed that *Zoysia japonica* will be of great value for the following reasons:

- (1) Its ability to withstand heat, long periods of drought and extremely cold climates.
- (2) Its ability to crowd out Crabgrass as it is most dominant during the Crabgrass season.
- (3) Its ability to provide a green cover during the summer months when other grasses, such as Kentucky Blue, turn brown and ragged. It will also hold its color into the late fall longer than others.
- (4) Its ability to withstand heavy traffic and its extraordinary healing qualities.
- (5) The fact that it is practically disease free and rarely attacked by known pests. It is immune to Chinch Bugs.
- (6) Unlike other varieties, *Zoysia japonica* forms a loosely knit sod and in its early stages blends and lives in harmony with other grasses, especially Blue Grass.

CULTURE:

We recommend using one pound of seed for every 450 sq. ft. of lawn area.

Zoysia japonica does not require extensive fertilizing because of its ability to thrive under all conditions. It is best to fertilize *Zoysia* during the fall, as that is the time most weeds are inactive. Do not top dress.

Zoysia japonica has one weakness—it is slow to germinate. It has, however, so many advantages in its favor, that it is well worth the extra preparation we recommend below. Once this grass is established, you will have a truly remarkable perennial lawn.

We suggest that in order to reduce the normal germination period to 14 days, you follow these simple instructions:

Mix seed with at least ten times the amount of dry, clean sand or Vermiculite.

Place in a flat, shallow pan so that the mixture is not over one inch deep. Soak but do not flood. Keep moist continually, wet down thoroughly at least once each day and stir once or twice daily.

Keep out in the hot sun. Leave it outdoors night and day for two weeks. By this time the seed will begin to crack and is ready for planting.

Sow seed and sand mixture, rake in lightly and roll. Keep moist same as you would with any other lawn seed.

If seed is planted during the hot weather season when the soil is warm, the pre-germination period may be reduced to three days.

USES:

Zoysia japonica is an extremely hardy perennial. It is persistent and will thrive in any kind of soil. While it will make as beautiful a lawn for the home as the more common grasses, its greatest value is for airports, athletic fields and playgrounds, cemeteries and golf courses, where a coarse and yet smooth turf is needed to withstand wear and tear of traffic.

The load-bearing capacity of *Zoysia* is unparalleled by other grasses. Areas planted with this grass and driven over by a truck at a time when the soil was wet, barely showed the track on well-established sod.

The fact that this grass grows very slowly, and only to a height of 9 inches, also makes it of outstanding value for all large areas. It requires mowing only a few times all season.

Zoysia japonica in its early stages is quite tolerant of other grasses. Later on, however, it will gradually spread and choke off all other grasses as well as weeds, so that eventually you will have a pure *Zoysia* turf.